Showcase Watersheds - Getting Them to Showcase Condition

Presentation by

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To

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Objectives

- Present information on a planning and implementation process – **Locally Led Approach.**
- Discuss technical support for the Locally Led Approach.
- Get feedback from LMRSBC members on interest in using this approach.
- Determine member interest in participating in a planning workshop.

Locally Led Approach
What does it do?

- Involves all stakeholders
- Uses consensus planning
- Identifies desired future conditions
- Inventories resources
- Determines priorities for action
- Builds local partnerships &coordinates with government
- Ensures implementation and follow-up

Locally Led Approach
What drives it?

Resource Planning Driven by:

- Local needs
- Local people
- Local action

The Planning Process - NRCS has adopted

- Nine steps grouped into 3 phases.

- Phase I includes 4 steps:

(1) Identify concerns and opportunities

(2) Determine objectives

(3) Inventory resources

(4) Analyze resource data.

Planning Process (Cont'd)

- Phase II includes:
  - (5) Formulate alternatives
  - (6) Evaluate alternatives
  - (7) Make decisions.
- Phase III includes:
  - (8) Implement the plan
  - (9) Evaluate the plan and adjust if needed.

Rationale for Locally Led in the Lower Mississippi River Basin

- Demonstrate through showcase projects how program neutral, locally led plans can be effectively implement and maintained from funds under existing programs.
- Use to build support for an initiative.

Key Considerations/Success Factors

- Select a good project – criteria
- Appeal to multiple stakeholders
- Support for long term
  - Planning
  - Implementation
  - Monitoring and Evaluation
- Can be set up for learning and increasing the knowledge base.

Selection Criteria

- High priority projects on the Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) list and are impaired by nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment or other agriculturally related pollutants

- Include separable impairments stemming from a variety of other sources including point and urban, rural, and non-agricultural non-point.

Include Other Watershed Concerns

- Wetlands
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Riparian corridors
- Water quantity
- Air quality
- Carbon sequestration
- Nutrient trading potential
- Other

Selection Criteria (Cont'd)

- Are no larger than the 14 digit HUC scale
- Have leadership interested in the locally-led and incentive-based non-regulatory approach.
  - Willing to involve the public

High Level of Support

- Projects sponsors establish with elected officials and agency top administrators that:
  - These pilot projects would are long-term and paramount for increasing knowledge base.
  - Understand that funds have to be allocated for goal setting, plan development, implementation, and measuring of accomplishments and effects.

High Level of Support (Cont'd)

- Paramount because they would serve as laboratories where:
  - Monitoring data would be gathered and evaluated by scientists
  - Used to refine the science
  - Develop methodologies to better quantify resource condition
  - Determine the effects of treatments under real world situations.

Benefits

- Demonstrate adaptive management
- Expanded knowledge base will better guide the planning and implementation of other projects
- Demonstrate improved efficiency of programs
- Provide outcomes as required by GPRA and the Administrations Management Initiative

Local Leadership/Sponsorship

- Consist of:

  - Local organization (preferably subdivision of local government)

  - Contains a minimum of one sparkplug

  - Elected officials are willing to support politically

Sponsorship in Agricultural Watersheds

- County/parish Soil and Water Conservation District will formally sponsor the planning effort
- The project may also be initiated and co-sponsored by a municipality, a county agency, or a group of concerned local citizens

Components of Structure

- The Locally Led Process normally includes:
  - Planning Committee
  - Technical Advisory Committee
  - Public

The Planning Committee

- Consists of a group of stakeholders normally drawn from:
  - Residents and/or landowners
  - Farm owners & operators
  - Local municipal officials
  - Business & industry representatives
  - Environmental & conservation groups
  - Other special interest representatives

Technical Advisory Committee

- Assist with the planning process
- Consist of subject area specialists from various public and private organizations
- Serve as a technical inter-disciplinary planning team assisting the Planning Committee

Technical Committee – Structure Options

- Ad hoc – one project only
- Dedicated – **virtual** – planning team dispersed locations; stay with parent agency.
- Dedicated – **real** – planning team; loose identity of parent agency; housed under one roof and under one team leader; dedicated primarily to the projects.

Technical Committee as a **Real** Planning Staff

- Interagency interdisciplinary planning staffs – diverse perspectives
- All stakeholders contribute support for development of program neutral plan
- Longevity – economies of training - trained as planners
- Build knowledge and experience
- Better able to refine and develop technology and planning tools

Public Information & Involvement

- Consist of:
  - Participation meetings
  - Workshops
  - Public meetings
  - Newsletters
  - Other

Essential Characteristics

Unless these projects are legitimized through **sponsors**, they will not:

- Have staying power
- Unable to sustain the installed works over their planned life.

(Role of Local Watershed Coordinator)

Essential Characteristics – Implementation Staffs

- Dedicated staff for plan implementation
- Agency/organization(s) that have a role in the plan should also furnish resources to implement the plan.

Internet References

- Top Ten Watershed Lessons Learned
  - http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/lessons/
- Areawide Conservation Planning
  - http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/areaconsplan.html
- Resource Planning Guide Book - Illinois 1999
  - http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/planning/resplng.html

Conclusion

- Demonstrate how the Locally Led Watershed Approach works
- Select pilot/ showcase/ demonstration projects for longevity, learning, knowledge expansion
- Support the planning and implementation process
- Success builds on success:
  - Using existing funds to demonstrate
  - Use successes to build support for an initiative

Participant Feedback?

- Showcase Watersheds – What do you do with them now that you have them?
- Use Locally Led Planning and Implementation Approach? Identify:
  - Official Sponsor?
  - Planning Committee?
  - Technical Committee?
- These committee members would attend a Loc. Led Approach Workshop? By When?
  - Outcome – Plan of Work to develop the Showcase Watershed Project.